



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Misc

1400 South 19<sup>th</sup>  
Bozeman, MT 59718

May 15, 2002

To: Governor's Office, Todd O'Hair, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801  
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620  
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office

Parks Division

Lands Section

FWP Commissioners

Wildlife Division

Design & Construction

Legal Unit

Fisheries Division

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1201

Montana State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103

Montana State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624

Gallatin County Commissioners

Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771-1571

Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Glenn Hockett, Gallatin Wildlife Association, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715

Tom Sather, Headwaters Fish & Game Association, P.O. Box 1941, Bozeman, MT 59771-1941

Perry Backus, 65 Redtail, Dillon, MT 59725

John Gatchell, Montana Wilderness Association, P.O. Box 635, Helena, MT 59624

Public Lands Access Association, William Fairhurst, Box 247, Three Forks, MT 59752

Jack Atcheson, State Lands Coalition, 3210 Ottawa Street, Butte, MT 59701

Scott McMillion, P.O. Box 1226, Livingston, MT 59047

Ladies and Gentlemen:

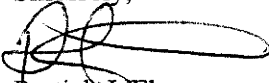
Attached is the decision notice for the Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS) Easement Conversion Request Environmental Assessment (EA). The possessor of a private easement across a small portion of the Cameron Bridge FAS requested of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) to be allowed to convert this private easement to a public easement to facilitate development of property to the north of the site. No public comments were received on the proposal. The public comment period ended on May 1, 2002.

It is my decision to recommend to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission that they allow FWP to proceed with the proposed action. This includes converting the existing private easement to a public easement, relocation of the existing easement approximately 50 feet to the west, abandonment of a second easement, and reclamation of the abandoned and existing easements. Further details are listed in the decision notice.

Questions regarding this decision notice should be directed to me at Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region Three, 1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718, (406) 994-4042, or at [pflowers@montana.edu](mailto:pflowers@montana.edu).

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

  
Partick J. Flowers  
Regional Supervisor

*Gallatin*

**CAMERON BRIDGE FISHING ACCESS SITE EASEMENT CONVERSION REQUEST  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
DECISION NOTICE**

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS  
REGION THREE, BOZEMAN  
MAY 15, 2002**

Proposed Action

Michael W. Delaney, possessor of a private easement across a portion (approximately 120 linear feet) of the Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS), located in Gallatin County on the Gallatin River about 2 miles south of Belgrade, Montana, has requested to convert the private easement to a public easement. He has additionally asked to relocate the easement approximately 50 feet to the east of the current easement location. As a part of this proposal, Mr. Delaney will formally abandon rights to a second easement approximately 200 feet to the west near the Gallatin River. The easement to be abandoned, and the existing easement to be moved will be reclaimed by Mr. Delaney. Reclamation work will involve scarifying the old roadbed and planting grass seed. Large rocks will be placed along the county road, from the Gallatin River Bridge to approximately 20 feet to the east of the easement to be abandoned, to prevent off-road vehicle travel. Mr. Delaney would also be permitted to remove brushy vegetation on either side of the intersection of the relocated easement and the county road to improve sight lines.

The conversion of the easement from private to public will allow access to property (40.02 acres) Mr. Delaney is developing to the north of the Fishing Access Site. The easement relocation will provide alignment with the access road on Mr. Delaney's property and result in a perpendicular intersection with the county road, which will enhance traffic safety.

This proposal must be considered and approved by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Commission. The FWP Commission must approve all land transaction matters of the agency.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) assess impacts of its proposals to the human and natural environments. The Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS) easement conversion request and its effects were discussed in the April 1, 2002 Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to comply with the requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

A 30-day comment period was open from April 1 through May 1, 2002. Public notification of the proposed action was facilitated with the distribution of legal notices printed in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle and Helena Independent Record newspapers.

Summary of Public Comment

No public comments were received on the proposal. A representative from the Montana Wildlife Federation called Jerry Walker on two occasions during the comment period to inquire about elements of the proposed action but no specific comments were offered.

Final Environmental Assessment for the Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site Easement Conversion Request

The Draft EA and this Decision Notice will serve as the final document.

## Decision

Based on the information in the Draft EA, it is my decision to recommend to the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission that FWP proceed with the proposed action. This includes, converting the existing private easement to a public easement, which will serve to provide public access to property north of the fishing access site boundary. The newly issued public easement will list the following conditions:

- A. This easement provides access to private property through a public recreation site. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks intends to be a good neighbor to private homeowners adjacent to this public Fishing Access Site, but will not take measures to shield private homeowners from potential impacts of legal, typical, or historic public use of this site.
- B. The Gallatin River periodically floods low-lying areas throughout the vicinity of this Fishing Access Site. FWP will not attempt to prevent flooding that arises on the Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site and inundates surrounding private property.

In addition, the recommendation suggests that the easement holder be permitted to relocate the easement approximately 50 feet to the east of the current easement location. A second easement approximately 200 feet to the west near the Gallatin River will be formally abandoned. The easement to be abandoned, and the existing easement to be moved will be reclaimed by the property owner and developer, Mr. Michael Delaney. Reclamation work will involve scarifying the old roadbed and planting grass seed. Large rocks will be placed along the county road, from the Gallatin River Bridge to approximately 20 feet to the east of the easement to be abandoned, to prevent off-road vehicle travel. Mr. Delaney will also be permitted to remove brushy vegetation on either side of the intersection of the relocated easement and the county road to improve sight lines.

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment and the applicable laws, regulations and policies, I have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please contact Pat Flowers, Region Three Supervisor at (406) 994-4042, 1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59718 or at [pflowers@montana.edu](mailto:pflowers@montana.edu).



Patrick J. Flowers  
Regional Supervisor  
Bozeman, MT